

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 02571 101726Z
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5522
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02571

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GW, XB
SUBJECT: FRG AMBASSADORIAL CONFERENCE IN NEW DEHLI

1. A PARTICIPANT FROM THE FONOFF IN A REGIONAL
CONFERENCE OF FRG AMBASSADORS WHICH WAS CONCLUDED IN
NEW DEHLI JANUARY 31 HAS TOLD US THAT THE BASIC
CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE WERE AS FOLLOWS:

-- THE INDIAN OCEAN HAS BECOME THE SEA OF THE THIRD
WORLD. ITS IMPORTANCE SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED.

-- THE INDIAN OCEAN HAS ALSO BECOME AN ARENA FOR
GREAT POWER RIVALRY AND PROMISES TO BECOME MORE SO.

-- THE STATES WHICH BORDER THE INDIAN OCEAN HAVE GREAT
TROUBLE POTENTIAL. THE RACIAL PROBLEMS IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THIRD WORLD ISSUE OF TO-
DAY. IT IS LIKELY THAT IN TEN YEARS TIME SOME OTHER
STATE WHICH BORDERS THE INDIAN OCEAN WILL ALSO PROVIDE
THE LEADING THIRD WORLD ISSUE.

-- GERMAN POLICY SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD SUPPORT OF
ASEAN STATES, WHICH HAVE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC, POLITI-
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CAL, AND SECURITY PROBLEMS. THEIR SECURITY POSITION HAS
CHANGED FOR THE WORSE WITH THE EMERGENCE OF VIET-NAM AS
THE LEADING MILITARY POWER IN THE AREA.

-- THE FRG IS NOT INFORMED ABOUT U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE
AREA. THE FONOFF SHOULD SEEK CONSULTATIONS WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE SO THAT THE FRG, WHOSE INTERESTS

IN THE AREA ARE IDENTICAL WITH U.S. INTERESTS, CAN WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH THE U.S.

2. WE ARE NOT CERTAIN AT THIS STAGE WHAT FORM THE FRG'S INTEREST IN CONSULTATIONS ON THE SUB-CONTINENT AND SOUTHEAST ASIA WILL TAKE. THE POLITICAL DIRECTOR FOR THE THIRD WORLD, LOTHAR LAHN, WHO CONDUCTED THE AMBASSADORIAL CONFERENCE, HAS SPOKEN TO US PREVIOUSLY OF A DESIRE TO VISIT WASHINGTON THIS SPRING FOR CONSULTATIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST. WE WERE SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED BY THE AFRICAN BUREAU THAT LAHN MAY WISH TO CONSULT WITH US ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. GIVEN THE CLEAR EXPRESSION OF A NEED FOR MORE INFORMATION ON U.S. POLICY, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT LAHN WOULD ADD THE SUB-CONTINENT AND SOUTHEAST ASIA TO HIS AGENDA. LAHN IS CURRENTLY ACCOMPANYING FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER ON THE LATTER'S TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST, SO WE CANNOT GET FROM HIM AT THE MOMENT ANY ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS HE MAY HAVE ON HIS DESIRE FOR CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON THIS SPRING.
STOESSEL

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